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middle of its journey.

## Boom in Venezuela

4. In Venezuela there is a tremendous boom, and in the mad scramble for money, politics seem to have been lost in thatfile. Colonel Marcos Perez Jimenez is sitting firmly in the saddle, and his well trained army is his chief support. Among newspaper and radio people, there is much talk of revolt, and there is open resentment because of infringement of freedom of expression. El Nacional, El Universal and La Esfera, the three principal newspapers, are in varying degrees of the opposition, but they are not allowed to print anything against the regime.

## Evidence of Dictatorship

there were at least 3,000 men in exile or in political prison, but 25X1X6 5. this is hard to prove. The only evidence of dictatorship for the average citizen is the evident special privileges enjoyed by anybody in uniform. A man can be arrested for what is termed "disrespect to the uniform" and thrown into jail without trial. So everybody talks about baseball, and any political opinions have to be extracted in very peronal conversations with friends of long standing. One doesn't hear any anti-government talk in casual exchanges.

## Army Power/Organization of Baseball

6. One little incident may illustrate the power of the army. The President of the professional baseball league of Venezuela was a civilian named Abraham Bacallao, a wealthy Caracas merchant. Since he was not considered politically reliable, the government named a commissioner of baseball, a major Benjamin Maldonado, to supercede him. The baseball league is now run militarily. The secretary of the league is a friend to see Major Maldonado to present his resignation. he got disgusted with the way 25X1X6 He was quite bitter about the situation and crossed a few words with the major, who promptly took out his gun and told him: "Your resignation would be an insult to the army. You are not resigning." He is still secretary of the league.

## Construction of Public Works/Standard of Living

7. Perez Jimenez has embarked in a spectacular campaign of public works and seems to be determined to be remembered as the greatest builder of superhighways, tunnels and skyscrapers in the history of Venezuela. Some of the great buildings seem to be entirely out of proportion with the economic level of the country ... and although the country is enjoying a tremendous boom, it still has a long way to go in sanitation, education and general welfare to reach what we would consider a of Venezuela was much the same medium standard of living. The impression a woman wearing a mink coat over dirty and ragged underwear.

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